

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A system for gathering and analyzing data relating to a non-fixed movable asset comprising:  
a local controller located at a first location for acquiring data that is representative of at least one operating characteristic of the asset;  
an analysis controller located at a second location that is responsive to said acquired data from said local controller for generating an analysis of said acquired data;  
an electronic communications network connected between said local controller and said analysis controller and permitting transmission of said acquired data from said local controller to said analysis controller; and  
a hand held device receiving at least a sub-set of said acquired data stored in said analysis controller.
  2. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said hand held device is in direct contact with said analysis controller.
  3. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein a second computer system is disposed between said analysis controller and said hand held device.
  4. A system as recited in claim 3, wherein said second computer system receives said acquired data, selectively modifies aspects of said acquired data, and forwards said acquired data including said modified aspects, to said hand held device.
  5. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said hand held <sup>device</sup> includes forms, said forms providing data values for the entry of foundational data associated with said data values, said data values and said foundational data being transmitted to said analysis controller.
  6. A system as recited in claim 5, wherein said foundational data is collected prior to said acquired data.

7. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said hand held device receives parts data associated with the asset, said parts data in the form of at least one of inventory, inventory location, and a parts catalog.

8. A system as recited in claim 1, wherein said analysis controller includes a database, said database including data values, collected data and comparison data being available for a selected data value.

9. A system as recited in claim 8, wherein said comparison data represents one of a best practice level and past historical data to provide a base point for comparison with said collected data.

10. A system as recited in claim 8, wherein said collected data includes at least user data representing a user accessing the asset.

11. A system as recited in claim 10, wherein said user data includes at least a subset of user identification, and access authorization.

12. A system as recited in claim 11, wherein said access authorization includes an analysis of user training or user certification with respect to a class of assets including the asset.

13. A system as recited in claim 10, wherein said system includes an authorization subsystem, said authorization subsystem including an asset access mechanism to receive said user identification from a data transmission point associated with the asset and comparison of said user identification from said data transmission point with said user identification from a remote database to confirm the identity of said user.

14. A system as recited in claim 12, wherein said remote database is one of said local controller and said analysis controller.

C1 15. A system as recited in claim 12, wherein said user identification is compared to access authorization to confirm proper authentication, said asset access mechanism permitting operation of the asset upon proper authentication.

16. A system for gathering and analyzing data relating to a non-fixed movable asset comprising:

a local controller located at a first location for acquiring data that is representative of at least one operating characteristic of the asset;

an analysis controller located at a second location that is responsive to said acquired data from said local controller for generating an analysis of said acquired data;

Sub 93 an electronic communications network connected between said local controller and said analysis controller and permitting transmission of said acquired data from said local controller to said analysis controller, said analysis controller including a database, said database including data values, collected data and comparison data being available for a selected data value; and

a hand held device including a form, said form providing at least a subset of said data values for the entry of foundational data, said foundational data being transmitted to said analysis controller and stored in said database.

Sub 94 17. A system as recited in claim 16, wherein said comparison data represents one of a best practice level and past historical data to provide a base point for comparison with said collected data.

18. A system for gathering and analyzing data relating to a non-fixed movable asset comprising:

an asset access device;

Sub 94 a local controller located at a first location for acquiring data received from said asset access device that is representative of a request for user authentication;

an analysis controller located at a second location that is responsive to said user authentication to generate an analysis of said request; and

an electronic communications network connected between said local controller and said analysis controller and permitting transmission of said request from said local controller to said analysis controller.

19. A system as recited in claim 18, further including an authorization subsystem, said asset access device receiving a user identification, said user identification being compared with a corresponding user identification stored in said asset controller, and providing selective access authorization based on additional user data stored in said asset controller for said user identification.

20. A system as recited in claim 18, wherein said additional user data includes at least one of user training or user certification with respect to a class of assets including the asset.